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	CA V	247 >1/	A method comprising:
	$\mathcal{D}_2^{\mathcal{C}}$	7/-	receiving a data frame on a receive port from a first
	3	device con	nected to a network, said data frame including a source
	4	media acc	ess control (MAC) address for said first device and a
	5	destination	MAC address for a second device connected to said
	6	network;	
	7		forwarding said data frame to a target port corresponding
	8	to said sec	cond devi¢e; and
	9		learning said source MAC address locally to said target
	10	port.	
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	1	2.	The method of claim 1, said learning step comprising:
	2		determining whether said source MAC address is present
	3	in a databa	ase ocal to said target port; and
	4		recording said source MAC address in said local
	5	database i	f not present.
	1	3.	The method of claim 1, further comprising performing
	2	frame forw	varding using said locally-learned MAC address.
	1	4.	The method of claim 2, further comprising aging said
	2	MAC addr	ess locally.
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1	5. T	he method of claim 2, further/comprising:
2	b	undling a pre-determined number of said MAC
3	addresses in	to a reply in response to a report request from a control
4	point; and	
5	tr	ansmitting said reply to said control point.
1	6. T	he method of claim 5, further comprising:
2	compili	ng a plurality of said replies into an aggregate database
3	and	
4	reportir	ng said aggregate database to a network user or
5	manager.	
1	7. T	he method claim 5, wherein said report request is
2	issued at time	e intervals which are configurable by a network user.
1	8/ A	network switch comprising:
2	a	port connected to a network device;
3	р	rocessors and a MAC address database local to said
4	port;	
5	S	aid processors programmed to perform MAC address
6	learning loca	lly to said port.
	/	
1		network switch comprising:
2	-	connected to a network device;
3	proces	sors and a MAC address database local to said port;
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	asid was assessed and was supering.	
4	said processors programmed to perform MAC address learning	
5	locally to said port.	
1	10. The network switch of claim 8, said processors	
2	programmed to perform frame forwarding using said local MAC	
3	address database.	
1	11. The network switch of claim 8, said processors	
2	programmed to perform aging of said local MAC address database.	
1	12. The network switch of claim 8, a database-handling	
2	processor of said processors programmed to bundle a pre-	
3	determined number of said MAC addresses into a reply in response	
4	to a report request from a control point included on said switch, and	
5	transmit said reply to said control point.	
1	13. The network switch of claim 12, said control point	
2	compiling a plurality of said replies into an aggregate database and	
3	reporting said aggregate database to a network user or manager.	
	14 A computer weekle medium storing computer evecutable	
1	14. A computer-usable medium storing computer-executable	
2	instructions, said instructions when executed by a processor	
3	implementing a method comprising:	
4	recei√ing a data frame on a receive port from a first	
5	device connected to a network, said data frame including a source	
	(PALO 00 0032) 21	

6	media access control (MAC) address for said first device and a		
7	destination MAC address for a second device connected to said		
8	network;		
9	forwarding said data frame to a target port corresponding		
10	to said second device; and		
11	learning said source MAC address locally to said target		
12	port.		
1	15. The computer-usable medium of claim 14, said learning		
2	step comprising:		
3	determining whether said source MAC address is present		
4	in a database local to said target port; and		
5	recording said source MAC address in said local		
6	database if not present.		
1	16. The computer usable medium of claim 14, said method		
2	further comprising performing frame forwarding using said locally-		
3	learned MAC address.		
1	17. The computer-usable medium of claim 14, said method		
2	further comprising aging said MAC address locally.		
1	18. The computer-usable medium of claim 14, said method		
2	further comprising:		
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3		bundling a pre-determined number of said MAC
4	addresses	into a reply in response to a report request from a control
5	point; and	
6		transmitting said reply to said control point.
1	19.	The computer-usable medium of claim 18, said method
2	further com	nprising:
3		compiling a plurality of said replies into an aggregate
4	database;	and /
5		reporting said aggregate database to a network user or
6	manager.	
1	20.	The computer-usable medium of claim 18, wherein said
2	report requ	est is issued at time intervals which are configurable by a
3	network us	er.